

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     PRETOR 04592 091609Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
   INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
   ICA-11 HA-05 /082 W  
          -----014461 100633Z /17

R 091544Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2036  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4592

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF, BC  
SUBJECT: DEAN OF BOTSWANA DETENTION IN SOUTH AFRICA

REF: GABORONE 2458 (NOTAL), 2477 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY POLICE DETAINED THE ANGLICAN DEAN OF BOTSWANA MICHAEL MOLALE UNDER SECTION 6 OF THE TERRORISM ACT FOR 13 DAYS PRIOR TO HIS RELEASE ON AUGUST 7. IN PRESS ACCOUNTS HERE, MOLALE ALLEGES THAT THE SECURITY POLICE KEPT HIM IN HANDCUFFS, BUT DID NOT OTHERWISE PHYSICALLY MISTREAT HIM, WHILE HE WAS EXTENSIVELY INTERROGATED ABOUT HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH SOWETO STUDENT REFUGEES IN BOTSWANA. MOLALE TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE WAS HELD IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT AND WAS DENIED WASHING FACILITIES AND A CHANGE OF CLOTHING DURING HIS CONFINEMENT. UPON HIS RELEASE ON AUGUST 7, HE SAID HE HAD BEEN THROUGH A "MOST HARROWING" EXPERIENCE. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT MOLALE IS A BOTSWANAN CITIZEN AND THE BOTSWANAN GOVERNMENT HAS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02     PRETOR 04592 091609Z

ALREADY MADE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE SAG ON MOLALE'S DETENTION.

2. COMMENT: WE HAVE SOME INFORMATION THAT MOLALE HAS BEEN IN DIFFICULTY WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS AND ONCE HAD HIS BOTSWANAN PASSPORT SEIZED BY THEM. IT IS PROBABLY CORRECT THAT THIS

LATEST SAG ACTION AGAINST HIM WAS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE SAG DETERMINATION TO MOVE AGAINST ANYONE SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS MOVEMENT. SINCE THE SAG BANNED THE LEADING BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS BPC, SASO, AND THE BCP ON OCT. 19, 1977, IT HAS APPARENTLY BEEN CONCERNED THAT THE VACUUM WOULD BE PARTIALLY FILLED BY CERTAIN CHURCHMEN AND CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS. IN RECENT MONTHS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO MOVED AGAINST THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS (JOBURG A-69), AND THE ECUMENICAL PUBLICATION "THE VOICE" (CAPE TOWN 1222). THE EPISODE REFLECTS THE EASE WITH WHICH PEOPLE CAN DISAPPEAR WITHOUT TRACE INTO THE JURISDICTION OF THE SECURITY POLICE.  
EDMONDSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DETENTION, PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** DEAN OF BOTSWANA DETENTION IN SOUTH AFRICA  
**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, SF, BC, (MOLALE, MICHAEL)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014